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- 5 NOV 1937

Monmouth
Rural District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

W. HUMPHREY WILLIAMS

B.A., M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P.

For the Year 1937.

1938

MONMOUTH.

*Printed by order of the Rural District Council
by J. Powell, Monmouth.*

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Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1937,

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL :

Councillor Capt. J. F. Adams, J.P. (Chairman).

Councillor Geo. Jones (Vice-Chairman).

Councillor A. G. Fennell, J.P., C.C.	Councillor A. E. Cleaves
„ W. W. Jones, J.P., C.C.	„ E. R. Ballinger
„ A. W. Anstey	„ T. H. Frederick
„ W. J. Davies	„ W. H. Pick
„ Capt. A. J. Canning	„ Wm. Edwards
„ E. S. Potter, J.P.	„ J. P. Jones
„ C. G. Fennell	„ B. R. Davies
„ E. M. Cowles	„ T. P. Marfell
„ H. G. Jones	„ J. P. Williams
„ W. H. Jones	„ J. R. Bowcott

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE :

Chairman—Councillor A. G. Fennell, J.P., C.C.

Councillor Capt. J. F. Adams, J.P.	Councillor A. E. Cleaves
„ W. H. Pick	„ Geo. Jones
„ E. S. Potter, J.P.	„ W. J. Davies
„ E. R. Ballinger	„ T. P. Marfell
„ Capt. A. J. Canning	

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health—

W. Humphrey Williams, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Part Time).

Sanitary Inspector—

G. L. Dicks, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., as Sanitary Inspector and
Petroleum Inspector (Whole Time).

MONMOUTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

This is not a survey report and is compiled upon the lines laid down in Circular 1660 (Wales) of the Welsh Board of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in Acres)	..	..	..	54,858
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population, 1937	..	..	..	5,900
Number of Inhabited Houses	..	..	..	1,700
Rateable Value	..	..	..	£14,859
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	£64

The Social Conditions of the area remain unchanged. Agriculture is the main occupation. The unemployment figures do not vary greatly.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

				Total	Male	Female
Live Births	{	Legitimate	.. ..	70	37	33
		Illegitimate	.. ..	5	1	4
				1937		1936
Birth-rate per 1000 population				12.7		14.0
Corresponding rate for England and Wales				14.9		14.8
" " " Monmouth County				15.5		15.9

				Total	Male	Female
Still Births	}	Legitimate	.. ..	1	1	0
		Illegitimate	.. ..	0	0	0
				1937	1936	

Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still Births	13·3	55·
Rate per 1,000 population	·01	·8
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	·6	·6
„ „ „ Monmouth County	·9	·9

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths	83	40	43

	1937	1936
Death-rate per 1,000 population	14·4	13·3
Corresponding rate for England and Wales ..	12·4	12·2
„ „ „ Monmouth County ..	12·6	12·2

Deaths from Puerperal Sepis—Nil.

„ „ Other Puerperal Causes—Nil

Death of Infants under One Year—Five.

	1937	1936
Death Rate—All Infants per 1000 live births ..	66·6	35·7
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	58·	59·

Death Rate Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	57·1
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Death Rate—Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate Live Births	200
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Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. 7

„ Measles (all ages) .. 0

„ Whooping Cough .. 1

„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .. 1

There were no noteworthy causes of sickness during the year.

Among other causes of death were the following;—

Heart Disease	17
Respiratory Diseases	9
Nephritis	6
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	3
Suicide	1
Other Violence	5

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

No change has been made in the Officials of the Council.

The Sanitary Inspector (Mr. G. L. Dicks, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.) has offices now in the new Rural District Council Offices, Monnow Street, Monmouth.

Several other Officials have duties to perform in the area, but they are not provided by the Council

- (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.—The County Laboratories are freely used by Medical men in the area and also by your Medical Officer.
- (b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—These are adequate. Much use is made of the St. John's Ambulance from Monmouth town, and the Monmouth Borough Isolation Ambulance is also available in the district.
- (c) NURSING IN THE HOME.—The work is mainly done by County Nurses,
- (d) CLINICS.—The Clinics in Monmouth town are much used by inhabitants of the area. The work has been extended during the year.
- (e) HOSPITALS... There are none in the area but use is made of the hospitals in adjoining districts

With regard to the infectious cases the Council are endeavouring to make new arrangements with the Monmouth Isolation Hospital for the reception of cases from this area.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

- (1) WATER. No acute shortage of water has been experienced in the year under review.

RAGLAN.—It was not found necessary to restrict this supply as in previous years, the new pump and increased storage being capable of maintaining a constant supply to the village. Samples of the water are submitted periodically for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis with satisfactory results.

TRELLECH. A much needed scheme for a piped supply to this village and the surrounding area is now under consideration.

SKENFRITH. Extensive works were carried out during the year to improve the quality of this supply. The water is now satisfactory in quality but some risk of pollution still remains during the storm periods. This risk can only be eliminated by piping the water from springs on Coed Angra to storage reservoir.

LLANDOGO. This supply continues to be satisfactory in quality and quantity. The supply will not however, permit of any more connections without increasing the storage capacity. This is severely taxed in very dry periods.

LLANISHEN.—This supply is satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Water from each piped supply is controlled by bacteriological examination and the results obtained are satisfactory

Two private wells were Closed during the year (Polluted).

- (2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. An improvement in the character and sufficiency of sewage disposal works at RAGLAN was carried out during the year at a cost of £700.

There were no extensions to the existing sewers.

- (3) RIVERS AND STREAMS. Pollution is slight.

- (4) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. In new houses, where possible, water closets are being installed.

Excepting Raglan and Llandogo wards, closets are mainly on the conservancy system. The area is not populous or closely built.

Two conversions to water closets were effected during the year on private premises.

- (5) PUBLIC CLEANSING. This is carried out by occupiers there being no refuse collection scheme in the area. This method is most unsatisfactory, giving rise to frequent complaints of nuisance.

- (6) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. There are no public baths in the area. There are no privately owned baths open to the public.

- (7) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. Premises are generally free from infestation. The belongings of persons to be removed and rehoused from unfit dwellings are inspected and, if necessary, fumigated by the Local Authority before removal.

- (8) SHOPS. No action was taken during the year under The Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences.

(9) SCHOOLS. Routine inspections of public elementary schools have been regularly carried out, and as a result a number of improvements effected. The majority of elementary schools in the area are situated in villages without a piped water supply and with no sewers.

(10) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. The number and nature of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector during the year :—

Housing Inspections	..	..	..	105
District inspections	.	..	.	450
Inspections of Bakehouses	..	..	..	18
" " Cowsheds	..	..	..	129
" " Dairies	..	..	..	95
" " Meat Shops	..	..	..	200
" " Slaughter-houses	..	..	..	205
" " Pig killing on private premises	.			9
" " Workshops, other than bake-houses	..	..	..	34
" " Public and school sanitary conveniences	..	..	..	32
" " Works for abatement of nuisances				258
" " Drains—Tests Applied	..			20
" " Special Complaints (Investigated)				24
" " Refuse Dump	..	..		24
" " Tents, Vans, Sheds	..	..		6
Owners, Occupiers and Tradesmen Interviewed				52

THE NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR :—

Informal	..	..	..	56
Statutory (Public Health Act)				2
Housing Act (Statutory)	..			1

RESULT OF SERVICE :—

Notices complied with	..	57
" not complied with	..	2

In many cases verbal notice was given and resulted in a considerable amount of work being executed without any need for further action.

Legal proceedings were instituted for the abatement of a nuisance in one case during the year. This culminated in the execution of the necessary works for abatement of the nuisance and an award of costs to the Council.

(1) INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND
WORKPLACES.

Premises	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Prosecu- tions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	10	0	0
Workshops (including Work- shop Laundries) ..	24	0	0
Workplaces (other than Out- workers premises ..	—	—	—

(2) DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND
WORKPLACES.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prose- cutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	0	0
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors ...				
Other Nuisances				
S anitary Accommodation } insufficient ... } unsuitable or defective ... } not separate for sexes ...	1	1	0	0
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts : —</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse				
Other Offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the sections men- tioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921) ...				
Total	2		0	0

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Seven houses were erected during the year by private enterprise.

Twelve " " " " " " " " the Local Authority.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	105
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	120
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which was inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925...	14
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	20
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	20
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	4

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	4
--	---

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

A—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	1
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owner ...	0

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	7
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	7
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owner ...	0

C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which a Demolition order was made	5
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	5

D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.

A. (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of Year ...	33
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	33
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein (per table of Housing Act, 1936)	180
B. Number of New cases reported during the year ...	1
C. (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(2) Number of persons concerned in such case	3
D. Particulars of cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for abatement of overcrowding	0
E. The Overcrowding is not of a serious character, and is due not to large families and sub-tenants but to the smallness of the rural cottages concerned.	

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Number of inspections made during the year, including inspections of farms and dairies	629
Number of farms and other premises found not to be in accordance with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order	4
Number of cowsheds in which structural alterations have been carried out satisfactorily	2
Number of new cowsheds erected	1
Number of defects discovered under the Milk and Dairies Order	36
Number of defects remedied as a result of informal notices	35
Number of samples taken for examination	59
Milk Special Designations Order, 1936:—	
Number of Samples submitted for examination ..	10

The cowsheds in the area are in a satisfactory structural state and have been kept in a fair condition during the year.

b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Number of inspections (including slaughter-houses) .. 405

Food found unfit—Meat 24 lbs.

Offal 156 „

Of this amount 24lbs was Tubercular.

Number of carcasses examined 434

The slaughter-houses licensed are now reviewed at the Council Meeting in May.

OCCASIONAL SLAUGHTER :

Number of carcasses examined 9

Meat found unfit 0

Examination of milk, etc., is carried out at the County Council Laboratories.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ...	86	28	6	276	62
Number inspected ...	86	27	6	250	56
All Diseases—EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS ;					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	0	0	0	1	0
Carcasses of which some part or Organ was condemned ...	8	2	0	8	0
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or Organ was condemned ...	0	0	0	0	2

SECTION F.

There were 15 cases of Scarlet Fever and four cases of diphtheria notified during the year.

Where cases can be properly isolated and treated at home this procedure is carried out. In many cases, however, this is impossible.

Anti-toxins are promptly used by the medical men in the district.

The school informations of illness and disease are very useful for detecting children with rashes unseen by a doctor.

A very few children have been immunised against diphtheria in the district.

Measles serum has not been used though injections of paternal blood has been performed for prophylaxis or attenuation.

The incidence of influenza was slight.

Disease	Total	Sent to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	15	12	0
Diphtheria .	4	3	0

The scarlet fever cases were children of school age, except five adults. The diphtheria cases were of school age, except one adult.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action has been found necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Medical men in the district make full use of the facilities provided by the National Memorial Association.

Tuberculosis is generally promptly notified.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5—10				2				1
15—25		1						
25—35					1			
35—45	1							
	1	1		2	1			1

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. HUMPHREY WILLIAMS.



